

Post-Operative Immediate Denture Care Instructions

First 24 Hours following extractions:

- Avoid rinsing, avoid drinking hot liquids or alcohol.
- Do NOT remove the immediate denture(s) during the first 24 hours. Swelling may occur that will make it difficult or impossible to replace the denture.
- Inflammation, swelling, and discoloration are likely to occur; application of ice packs will provide some relief (20 minutes on, 20 minutes off) on the first day.
- Your immediate denture not only replaces your missing teeth, but it protects the surgical site, control swelling, and control bleeding. The denture needs to be in place to be effective.
- Expect minimal blood on your pillow during the first night; consider placing a towel to protect linen; troublesome bleeding is rare because the denture acts as a “bandage”.
- The diet for the first 24 hours should be liquid or soft, if tolerated.
- After 24 hours, you will be seen for a follow up visit.

At the 24 hour Visit

- At this visit, the denture will be gently removed to allow evaluation of the extractions sites and relieve any sore spots related to the denture.
- The denture will be out of the mouth for a short period of time only.
- The occlusion (bite) will be assessed. Only minor adjustments will be done at this visit as maximum bite force is not expected at this early stage of healing.

First Postoperative Week

- Continue to wear the immediate denture at day and nighttime for 7 days following the extractions or until swelling is reduced. This will eliminate possible difficulties with reinsertion of the denture in the morning.
- Immediately after the 24-hour visit, start with a gentle denture and oral care routine.
- After eating, remove the denture briefly for cleaning. Clean denture with a denture brush, and very gently rinse mouth with lukewarm salt water without disturbing blood clots forming in extraction sites. Reinsert the denture immediately and wear it continuously.
- After 1 week, sutures (if present) will be removed.
- At the end of the 1st week, the dentures can now be removed at night.
- Start using a daily denture cleaning solution to soak the denture overnight.

Further Follow-up Care

- Weekly visits (or visits as needed) will be scheduled for the 1st month to ensure maximum comfort with immediate denture(s).
- Periodic adjustments are needed in the 4-6 months following denture insertion to compensate for the changes that will take place in your mouth.
- Tissue conditioner (temporary soft liner) *may* be placed inside the denture to provide comfort and aid in retention during function.

Final Restorative Treatment

- An immediate denture is regarded as an interim or transitional denture.
- A new denture is fabricated 4-6 months after extractions.
- In selected cases, a hard acrylic reline only may be needed